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Bhushan Mangesh Kanekar

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THE LAW OFFICE OF KIRK D. WILLIAMS  
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EXAMINER

BADII, BEHRANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3694

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 5-7, 10-12 and 16-18, drawn to a method/apparatus for generating accounting data, the method comprising: identifying a lookup value; performing a lookup operation in an associative memory based on the lookup value to identify an associative memory result; performing a lookup operation on an adjunct memory based on the associative memory result to identify a counter indication, wherein at least two entries within the adjunct memory include a same counter indication; and updating one of a plurality of counters based on the counter indication, classified in class 705, subclass 30.
- II. Claims 8-9, drawn to a method for generating accounting data, the method comprising: identifying a lookup value, wherein the lookup value includes at least one autonomous system number, said at least one autonomous system number identifying a set of communication devices under a single administrative authority, classified in class 705, subclass 34.
- III. 21-25, drawn to an apparatus, comprising: one or more processors and memory, wherein the memory stores one or more instructions that, when executed by said one or more processors, perform operations comprising: configuring a mechanism for accumulating information based on an access control list including a plurality of access control list entries, with one or more of the plurality of access control list entries identifying accounting requests; said configuring the mechanism including: associating

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accounting mechanisms with each of said one or more of the plurality of access control list entries identifying accounting requests; and wherein at least one of the plurality of access control list entries identifies a deny operation and at least one of the plurality of access control list entries identifies a permit operation, classified in class 705, subclass 39.

IV. Claims 1-4, drawn to a method, comprising: for each particular item of a plurality of items: identifying a particular accounting mechanism of said accounting mechanisms corresponding to the particular item based on matching the particular item with said one or more of the plurality of access control list entries; and in response, updating the particular accounting mechanism corresponding to the particular item, classified in class 705, subclass 35.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II, III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as identifying a lookup value; performing a lookup operation in an associative memory based on the lookup value to identify an associative memory result; performing a lookup operation on an adjunct memory based on the associative memory result to identify a counter indication, wherein at least two entries within the adjunct memory include a same counter indication; and updating one of a plurality of counters based on the counter indication. Invention II has separate utility such as identifying a lookup value, wherein the lookup value includes at least one autonomous system

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number, said at least one autonomous system number identifying a set of communication devices under a single administrative authority. Invention III has separate utility such as one or more processors and memory, wherein the memory stores one or more instructions that, when executed by said one or more processors, perform operations comprising: configuring a mechanism for accumulating information based on an access control list including a plurality of access control list entries, with one or more of the plurality of access control list entries identifying accounting requests; said configuring the mechanism including: associating accounting mechanisms with each of said one or more of the plurality of access control list entries identifying accounting requests; and wherein at least one of the plurality of access control list entries identifies a deny operation and at least one of the plurality of access control list entries identifies a permit operation. Invention IV has separate utility such as for each particular item of a plurality of items: identifying a particular accounting mechanism of said accounting mechanisms corresponding to the particular item based on matching the particular item with said one or more of the plurality of access control list entries; and in response, updating the particular accounting mechanism corresponding to the particular item. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Behrang Badii whose telephone number is 571-272-6879. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application  
or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 3600 Customer Service  
Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

Behrang Badii  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

/Behrang Badii/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3694